

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Montana

Overview of the SCAN Policies Database

The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in collaboration with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mathematica leads this project in partnership with Child Trends.

The project's purpose is to review and compile information from states' definitions and policies to create a database of those definitions and policies that can be used for analysis. The SCAN Policies Database is a resource for researchers, analysts, child welfare agency staff, and others interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment and how they change over time.

Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The SCAN Policies Database team gathered this information through a document collection, review, and coding process. The team obtained input from states on data collection through a confirmation and verification process. More information about these data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol, accessible at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The SCAN Policies Database 2023 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between June 2023 and July 2024. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2023. The scope of topics in the database includes states' definitions of child abuse and neglect, as well as information about policies related to reporting, screening, and investigating child maltreatment. Key aspects of the child welfare systems' response and context are also included.

The content in the SCAN Policies Database is organized into six domains. The state profiles, codebook, data collection protocol, and data file are also organized by these domains. In the protocol, each question begins with a letter prefix identifying the domain for each variable. The six domains with the identifying protocol number prefix are listed below.

| Domain | Question prefix |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Definitions | D |
| Reporting | R |
| Screening | S |
| Investigation | I |
| Child welfare response | W |
| Child welfare system context | C |

State profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. Each of the six domains contain a set of tables that depict the state's information for all variables within that domain.

The state profile presents data for each variable with “yes,” “no,” “unknown,” or other response, as appropriate. The response of “unknown” appears for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with that state. In some cases, “logical skip” appears when a question was not applicable to a particular state, given a related response on a preceding question. Some information was not included in the state profile to ensure alignment with Executive Orders or other Presidential Actions.

Data use resources

Several data use resources are available to support users of the SCAN Policies Database:

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources, and notes about specific topics. The data user's guide includes appendices, including information about changes to the data between 2021 and 2023 that reflect changes to state laws and policies during that time period. There is one data user's guide that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Codebook:** The codebook provides information about each variable in the data set, including variable names, labels, definitions, protocol number, variable type, and frequencies. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **Errata statement:** The errata statement presents corrections applied to previous rounds of data for the SCAN Policies Database. Starting in 2023, there is one errata statement that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' laws and policies as part of the data review and coding process for each round of data collection. There are separate data collection protocols for each round of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>) or from the National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) (<https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/>).

More information

More information about the SCAN Policies Database can be found at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com>. General inquiries can be submitted to SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com.

State identifying information

Table I. State Identifying information

| | Response |
|---|----------|
| State abbreviation | MT |
| State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code | 30 |
| Census region code | West |
| State verified coding of information | Yes |
| State confirmed documents reviewed | No |
| State definitions and policies for calendar year | 2023 |
| Data version | 2023v1 |

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table D.I. State's definition of child maltreatment

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Physical abuse | Yes |
| b. Excessive corporal punishment | Yes |
| c. Sexual abuse | Yes |
| d. Emotional maltreatment | Yes |
| e. Neglect | Yes |
| f. Inadequate clothing | Yes |
| g. Inadequate shelter | Yes |
| h. Malnourishment, inadequate food | Yes |
| i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care | Yes |
| j. Failure to thrive | Yes |
| k. Educational neglect | Yes |
| l. Abandonment | Yes |
| m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being | Yes |
| n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created | Yes |
| o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities | Yes |
| p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child | Yes |
| q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol | No |
| r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child | Yes |
| s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude | Yes |
| t. Female genital mutilation | No |
| u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma | Yes |
| v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm | Yes |
| w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence | Yes |
| x. Factitious disorder by proxy | No |
| y. Institutional abuse/neglect | No |
| z. Other definition (specify) | No |
| 2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse | Abuse includes physical abuse, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse |
| b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect | Neglect includes psychological neglect; Physical neglect includes failure to provide basic necessities, including nutrition, protective shelter from the elements, and appropriate clothing related to weather conditions, failure to provide cleanliness, and general supervision |
| c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect | Not applicable |

Table D.1 (*continued*)

| | Response |
|--|--|
| 3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Inflicts harm | Yes |
| b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm | Yes |
| 4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment | No |
| 5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition | Yes |
| b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition | Yes |
| c. Harmful environment, conditions | Yes |
| d. Type of harm or injury not specified | No |
| e. Other (specify) | Yes - Any form of child sex trafficking or human trafficking |
| 6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment | No |
| 7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Any person | No |
| b. Parent | Yes |
| c. Guardian | Yes |
| d. Caregiver/caretaker | Yes |
| e. Family member or parent's paramour | No |
| f. Household member | Yes |
| g. Person responsible for child | Yes |
| h. Other (specify) | No |
| 9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment | No |
| 10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type | Not applicable |
| 11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment | Under age 18 |
| 13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment | No |

Table D.II. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child | Yes |
| b. Discipline; physical discipline, if it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child | Yes |
| c. Safe haven exemption; newborn relinquished or abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven and safe surrender laws | Yes |
| d. Infant testing positive for drugs – medical; newborn with positive test for controlled substance due to parent's medical treatment | No |
| e. Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment | Yes |
| f. Other exemption (specify) | Yes - Sexual abuse does not include any necessary touching of an infant's or toddler's genital area while attending to the sanitary or health care needs of that infant or toddler by a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare |
| 2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations or designated providers | Yes |
| b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent | Yes |
| c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify) | Yes - 30 days old or younger |
| d. No intent to return | Yes |
| e. Child must be left unharmed | Yes |
| f. Other (specify) | No |

Table D.III. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment | |
| a. Not specified or defined | No |
| b. Injury from abuse or neglect caused death | Yes |
| c. Abuse or neglect was contributing factor in death | No |
| d. Death of child who was in child welfare custody or foster care | No |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 2. State conducts case reviews with a child fatality review team or a similar review process for fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect | Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases |
| 3. State's definition of near-fatalities or near-deaths caused by child maltreatment | |
| a. Not specified or defined | No |
| b. General reference to a serious or critical condition or injury that is life threatening with a substantial risk of death | Yes |
| c. Specific injury or specific medical treatment or intervention (specify) | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect | Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases |

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. Statewide centralized reporting | Yes |
| 2. Decentralized reporting | Logical Skip |
| 3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment | |
| a. Known abuse and neglect | No |
| b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected | Yes |
| 4. Universal mandated reporting | No |
| 5. Required training for mandated reporters | No |
| 6. Penalties for failure to report | Yes, all mandated reporters |
| 7. Specific penalties for failure to report | |
| a. Criminal charges | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | Yes |
| c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 8. Penalties for false reporting | Yes |
| 9. Specific penalties for false reporting | |
| a. Criminal charges | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | Yes |
| c. Professional license suspended or revoked | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect | Yes |
| 11. Information requested at the time of report | |
| a. Identifying information of child | Yes |
| b. Location and contact information of child and family | Yes |
| c. Type and severity of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| d. Date of suspected maltreatment | No |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | Yes |
| f. Identifying and other information of reporter | Yes |
| g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker | Yes |
| h. Identifying and other information of family or household members | Yes |
| i. Information on prior maltreatment | Yes |
| j. Other (specify) | Yes - Police involvement; Any other information the maker of the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries or showing the willful neglect and the identity of the person or persons responsible for the injury or neglect; The facts that led the person reporting to believe the child has suffered injury or injuries or willful neglect |

Table R.I (continued)

| | Response |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 12. Anonymity of reporter | All reporters can remain anonymous |
| 13. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to accept reports of Tribal cases | No, Tribes are not involved |
| 14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment | |
| a. State does not require all cases of SENs to be reported for child maltreatment, but they could be reported if they meet certain criteria | No |
| b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment | Yes |
| c. Other (specify) | No |
| 15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports) | Yes |

Table R.II. Types of mandated reporters

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Types of mandated reporters | Included in state's definition of mandated reporters | Training required ¹ | Subject to penalties for failure to report ² |
| a. Foster parents | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| b. School staff - teachers | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| d. Before- /after-school program staff | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| e. Child care staff | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| g. Athletic coaches or staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| h. Medical or dental professionals | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| k. Police or other law enforcement | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| m. Judges | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| n. District attorneys or other attorneys | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| o. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| p. Other court personnel | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| q. Shelter staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| s. Religious clergy | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| t. Volunteers | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| u. Coroners or medical examiners | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |

Table R.II (*continued*)

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify) | Yes - Religious healers; Residential worker; An employee of an entity that contracts with the department to provide direct services to children | Logical Skip | Yes - Religious healers; Residential worker; An employee of an entity that contracts with the department to provide direct services to children |

¹ Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table R.II).

Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and all mandated reporters require training (Table R.II).

² Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I).

Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I).

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table S.I. Screening policies

| | Response |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Statewide centralized screening | Yes |
| 2. How screening is decentralized | Logical Skip |
| 3. Information required to screen in report | |
| a. Identifying information of child | No |
| b. Location and contact information of child and family | No |
| c. Type and severity of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| d. Date of suspected maltreatment | No |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |

Table S.II. Screening decision process and activities

| | Response | Required cases | Conditions or types of cases |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Decision processes used during screening | | | |
| a. Supervisory review | Yes | Required for all | — |
| b. Team-based decision | Yes | Required for some | — |
| c. Individual screener | No | Logical Skip | — |
| d. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | — |
| e. Unknown | No | — | — |
| 2. Variability of decision process used for screening | | | |
| a. Consistent statewide | Yes | — | — |
| b. Varies locally | No | — | — |
| 3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening | Yes | | |
| 4. Activities or information required as part of screening | | | |
| a. Safety or risk assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| 5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening | | | |
| a. Structured decision making | No | — | — |
| b. Other (specify) | Yes - SAMS - Immediate and Impending Danger | — | — |
| 6. Consistency of screening activities/information | | | |
| a. Consistent statewide | Yes | — | — |
| b. Varies locally (specify) | No | — | — |

Table S.III. Screeners

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports | |
| a. Caseworkers (frontline staff) | No |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | No |
| c. Staff in specialized screening unit | Yes |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 2. Qualifications of screener | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for screening (specify) | Yes - Initial training on intake and screening |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - 1 year related experience or a combination of related education and experience on a case by case basis |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners | Yes, required |
| 4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases | Yes, Tribes directly conduct screening - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT); Blackfeet; Crow Agency; Fort Belknap; Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes; Northern Cheyenne; Chippewa Cree |

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table I.I. Investigations policies

| | Response |
|--|---|
| 1. Findings from child maltreatment investigations can lead to criminal penalties | Yes |
| 2. Investigator for reports | |
| a. Caseworkers (frontline staff) | Yes |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | Yes |
| c. Staff in specialized investigations unit | No |
| d. Law enforcement | Yes |
| e. Other (specify) | Yes - County attorney |
| 3. Qualifications of investigator | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for conducting investigations (specify) | Yes - Initial training to obtain Child Protection Specialist certification; 20 hours of additional training each year |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - 2 years |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators | Yes, required |
| 5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed) | Preponderance of evidence |
| 6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding | No |

Table I.II. Required activities/information for investigation

| | Response | Required cases | Conditions or types of cases |
|---|--|-------------------|--|
| 1. Certain activities or information required for the investigation process | Yes | | |
| 2. Specific activities or information required for investigation | | | |
| a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| b. Visit to child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Interview or observation of child victim | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| e. Risk or safety assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| f. Evaluation of home environment or home study | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| h. Check of criminal records for adults in home | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| j. Medical evaluation | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| k. Mental health evaluation | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| l. Interview alleged perpetrator | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| m. Interview reporter or collateral source | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| n. Other (specify) | Yes - Refer to law enforcement, ombudsmen, and county attorney and if applicable, county interdisciplinary child information team for concurrent investigation | Required for some | Child fatalities; Sexual abuse; Exposure of a child to an actual violent offense; Exposure of the child to criminal manufacture or distribution of dangerous drugs |

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

| | Response |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Differential/alternative response | No |
| 2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination | Logical Skip |
| 5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response | Logical Skip |
| 9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response | Logical Skip |

Table W.II. In-home services, foster care, and permanency

| | Response |
|--|---|
| 1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families | Yes--implemented statewide |
| 2. In-home services provided post reunification | Yes--implemented statewide |
| 3. Permanency | |
| a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option | Yes |
| b. Subsidized guardianship | Yes |
| c. Subsidized kinship guardianship | Yes |
| d. Subsidized adoption | Yes |
| 4. Foster care case management staff | |
| a. State/county public agency staff | Yes |
| b. Contracted provider staff | No |
| c. Tribal agency staff | Yes |
| 5. Qualifications of foster care case managers | |
| a. Associate degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for case management (specify) | Yes - Initial training to obtain Child Protection Specialist certification; 20 hours of additional training each year |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - 2 years |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers | Yes, required |

Table W.III. Tribal foster care and Tribes that directly operate Title IV-E programs through an agreement with HHS

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases | Yes, Tribes within state provide foster care - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT); Blackfeet Nation; Crow Tribe; Fort Belknap Indian Community; Northern Cheyenne Tribe; Chippewa Cree Tribe |
| 2. Tribes directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS | No |
| 3. Number of Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS | Logical Skip |
| 4. Specify Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS | Not applicable |

Table W.IV. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

| | Response |
|---|----------|
| 1. Federal ICWA requirements codified in state law | Yes |
| 2. Federal ICWA requirements that are codified in state law | |
| a. Identifying a child's Tribal status | Yes |
| b. Use of active efforts to prevent removal/reunite families | Yes |
| c. Notification of child's parents and Tribe for child custody proceedings | Yes |
| d. Actively working to involve a child's parents and Tribe during the custody proceedings | Yes |
| e. Identifying a foster care or pre-adoptive placement using ICWA preferences provisions | Yes |
| f. Use of qualified expert witnesses | Yes |
| 3. State law codifying ICWA includes state-recognized Tribes | Yes |

Table W.V. Extended foster care

| | Response |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Foster care extension for youth older than age 18 | Yes |
| 2. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care | Up to age 21 (until 21st birthday) |
| 3. Youth must proactively request, provide consent, or opt-in to receive extended foster care | Yes |
| 4. Criteria for youth to remain in extended foster care | |
| a. There are no criteria to remain in extended foster care | No |
| b. Enrolled in school | Yes |
| c. Employed | No |
| d. Participating in workforce development/training program | No |
| e. Comply with independent living/self-sufficiency plan | No |
| f. Receive independent living or other services | No |
| g. Medical condition exemption | No |
| h. Other (specify) | No |
| 5. Reentry to extended foster care allowed for youth older than age 18 who aged out or left foster care | No |
| 6. Conditions for youth to reenter extended foster care | Logical Skip |

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table C.I. Child welfare system context

| | Response |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. State- or county-administered child welfare system | State-administered |
| 2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring | No |

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

Punishment is defined as "unnecessary and cruel" punishment.

Montana's 2023 Annual Progress and Services Report indicates a substance-exposed newborn would be considered physical neglect although this is not explicitly defined as maltreatment in statute, administrative code, or policy.

Reporting

Montana accepts request for services reports when information does not meet the criteria for child abuse or neglect but requires a response from the child welfare agency due to a request for services or the need for an investigation by law enforcement or other agencies charged with investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. These reports are accepted and unrelated to risk of child maltreatment.

Investigations

The following two investigation activities may be included but are not required: (1) an investigation at the home of the child involved, the child's school or day-care facility, or any other place where the child is present, and (2) an investigation into all other nonfinancial matters that in the discretion of the investigator are relevant to the investigation.

Child protection specialist is the state-assigned title for caseworkers and social workers.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Child Abuse and Neglect, Mont. Code § 41-3 (2023).

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Child and family services policy manual.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2017). Child and Family Services Division: 7.4.1.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2017). Child and Family Services Division: 7.4.2. (PRO) Safety systems critical incidents response procedure.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2017). Child and Family Services Division: 7.4.2.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2020). Montana guidelines for the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect 2020-2021.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2020). State of Montana child and family services plan, 2020-2024.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (2023). State of Montana Annual Progress and Services Report.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2024). Investigation Finding and Determination.

Montana Secretary of State. (n.d.). Administrative rules of Montana: Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Offenses Against the Person, Mont. Code § 45-5 (2022).

State of Montana. (2024). Child Protection Specialist (Region 1 - Eastern).